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**Release Number:** COL-FY-09-04

**Contact:** Shannon Feucht, 614-469-6860 x244  
**Internet Address:** [www.sba.gov/news/](http://www.sba.gov/news/)

## ***SBA Announces Ohio 2009 Small Business Person of the Year***

Carla Eng, President of *Abstract Displays Incorporated* has been named the Ohio Small Business Person of the Year for 2009 by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Abstracts Displays, Inc. was established to provide the face-to-face event industry with a company that provided a level of service beyond the comprehension of the client, "True Service Excellence!" Abstract Displays, Inc. is a premier designer and producer of dimensional solutions for trade show exhibits, events, environments and all face-to-face sales, marketing and corporate needs, including graphics and turnkey support services. Abstract Displays, Inc.'s commitment is to provide its clients with the proper tools required to assist them in becoming more efficient and effective in their jobs and to boost the overall performance of their events and marketing programs. In addition, Abstract Displays, Inc. offers a comprehensive service program to its exhibit, marketing professionals. Carla's philosophy is to develop long lasting relationships with her clientele and to provide that World-Class service each client only dreams of but never expects to receive. She feels that anyone can sell an exhibit, but not everyone can service and maintain clients with World-Class customer service. This is what truly distinguishes her company from the competition. Abstract staff members demonstrate their World-Class service standards through honesty, integrity, dedication, and being pro-active. This is evident through the company's 99% client retention rate, as well as in its growth in both revenues and personnel.

Carla is a seasoned professional, with over twenty years experience in the trade show, and event marketing industry. She began her career as the Trade Show Exhibit Manager, for a computer software company. Her responsibilities included planning and managing multitudes of sales and marketing events and the trade show program for six years. Next Carla performed as the Top Sales person, for over seven years, as well as Sales Manager for a Cincinnati based exhibit/display company.

Carla Eng is a person dedicated to success. Her passionate and positive attitude makes her a role model for success. Even in the face of personal adversity she continued to move forward. Now with the world in the middle of economic recession, she has made the choice that her company will not participate in the economic down-turn, but continue to grow and assist its clientele with growth in their marketplace.

Carla is among 53 top small business persons – one from each state, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands, and Guam - who will be honored at SBA's National Small Business Week events May 17 – 19, 2009 in Washington, D.C. As the winner of the Ohio Small Business Person of the Year Award, Carla is competing to be named at the National Small Business Person of the Year during the national event.

The Columbus District SBA Celebrating Success in Small Business honoring our Small Business Winners will be held at an evening event April 22, 2009 at the Pinnacle Golf Club, Grove City, OH. For more information please contact Shannon Feucht at [Shannon.Feucht@sba.gov](mailto:Shannon.Feucht@sba.gov) or event flyer located at [www.sba.gov/columbus/oh](http://www.sba.gov/columbus/oh).

SBA would also like to give special thanks to the following sponsors Business Development Finance Corporation, Ohio Department of Development, Small Business Development Center, Minority Business Enterprise Division, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, Borrego Springs Bank, Commerce National Bank, Economic & Community Development Institute, Huntington National Bank, U.S. Bank, Riverhills Bank, Columbus SCORE Chapter, Ohio Statewide Development Corporation, Ohio Business Connection, KeyBank and National City now part of PNC.

*Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available at SBA's Web site: [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov)*

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## ***SBA Announces Columbus District 2009 Small Business Champions of the Year And Special Category Winners***

Every year since 1963, the President has proclaimed National Small Business Week to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of America. Thomas K. Mueller, District Director of the Small Business Administration Columbus District Office announced today that 13 small business owners/advocates will be recognized for their achievements as small business owners and champions during The Celebrating Success in Small Business Ceremony. Special recognition awards will also be presented to the SBA's outstanding participating lenders.

The Columbus District Office 2009 small business champions and special category winners are:

**SBA Financial Services Champion – Mary C. Hurlburt** - Director of Community Outreach, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Cincinnati – Mary has helped families and businesses in all stages of their financial lives through counseling, community outreach and education.

**SBA Home-based Business Champion – REGIONAL WINNER - Crystal L. Kendrick**, President, The Voice of Your Customer, Cincinnati – a marketing consulting firm that assists organizations to create exceptional customer experiences the intelligent use of survey research, mystery observations, business training and marketing.

**SBA Veteran Small Business Champion – Honored Posthumously – Michael William Bodey**, Regional Director, Ohio SBDC at Wright State University Dayton – provides direct assistance to veteran-owned businesses for more than 13 years.

**SBA Women in Business Champion of the Year – Tillie Hidalgo Lima**, President/CEO, BestUponRequest Loveland, OH – national certified Minority and Women Business Enterprise that offers on-site concierge services as a viable and highly utilized employee.

**SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year – Kami Kinnett**, Owner, White Lotus Studios, LLC – a full service photography studio which provides photography services for portraits and events but specializes in contemporary wedding photography.

**Jeffrey Butland Family Owned Business of the Year – Todd E. Miller**, President, **Donald E. Miller**, Owner & **Kelly Joseph**, CFO, Classic Products, Inc., Piqua, OH – industry frontrunner in manufacturing various shake and shingle profiles which are manufactured from pre-painted aluminum to copper and steel.

**Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award – Cindy Voorhies**, Director, Small Business Development Center at Zane State College – provides counseling to Ohio's entrepreneurs at various stages of business development and growth.

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**SBA Minority Small Champion of the Year – Carolyn Williams Francis**, President & CEO, Williams Interior Design, Inc., Columbus – provides interior designs, space planning color coordination, window treatment, floor covering and office furniture dealership.

**Columbus District Women Owned Business of the Year – Linda B. Kick**, Owner , Our CupCakery, Columbus OH – retail and custom bake shop offering customers a unique experience and product including a cupcake bar where customers can decorate their own cupcakes.

**Columbus District Minority Small Business of the Year – David N. Kirk**, Owner, DNK Architects, Inc., Cincinnati, OH – one of the area leading boutique architectural firms offering expertise in architecture, interior design, planning and landscape design to clients in the tri-state region.

**Columbus District Veteran Small Business of the Year – Michael Kevin Clare**, President, Chevron Construction Services, LLC, Mason - Service – Disabled Veteran- Owned Small Business providing General Construction.

**Columbus District Excellence in Energy Award – Stephen K. Melink**, President, Melink Corporation, Milford OH – provider of energy-efficiency and renewable-energy products and services for national restaurant and retail chains since 1987.

The Columbus SBA will honor our 2009 award winners at Celebrating Success in Small Business on April 22, 2009 at the Pinnacle Golf Club, Grove City, OH. For more information please contact Shannon Feucht at [Shannon.Feucht@sba.gov](mailto:Shannon.Feucht@sba.gov) or view the event flyer located at [www.sba.gov/columbus/oh](http://www.sba.gov/columbus/oh).

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The U.S. Small Business Administration congratulates all the winners and thanks them for their commitment and contribution to the small business community.

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# *NEWS RELEASE*

COLUMBUS DISTRICT OFFICE, STE 200, 401 N. FRONT ST., COLUMBUS OH 43215

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